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HOW TO CLEAN FLOORS

ALL FLOORS NEED CARE

- Dirt scratches and roughens floors.
- Clean floors last longer.
- Clean floors look better.

Sweep or dust your floors daily or as needed. Sweep with long, easy strokes. Use a long-handled dustpan to pick up the dirt. (Fig. 1) A clean dust mop is a quick way to get rid of dust and dirt.

If you spill something, wipe it up right away, before it dries or is tracked over the floor.

FIRST, FIND OUT WHAT KIND OF FLOOR YOU HAVE

- Wood
- Linoleum or Vinyl
- Vinyl Asbestos Tile
- Asphalt Tile
- Ceramic Tile

FOR ASPHALT, VINYL, OR LINOLEUM FLOORS

REGULAR CLEANING

How often you need to wash your floors depends upon many things.

- Size of your family
- Age of your children
- Pets in the home
- Kind of yard. Is it bare ground, grass, or paved?
- Amount of activity and traffic in your home
- Weather and time of year.

You may need to wash your floors once a week or perhaps once every 2 or 3 weeks will be enough.

Damp mop lightly soiled floors with clear cool water (no detergent). This may be enough for "in-between" cleanings. Clear water won't take off the wax. To wash the floors this way:

- Use a pail of cool water and a mop.
- Wring out the mop well.
- Don't get the floor too wet.



Fig. 1

This will cut down on the number of times you need to do a "real good" scrubbing.

MOPPING DIRTY FLOORS— ASPHALT, VINYL, LINOLEUM

Move lightweight furniture out of the room to speed up mopping.

Get two pails of warm water ready. (Fig. 2)

- Add detergent to one pail. Stir up suds. This is your wash water.
- Use the other pail for rinsing.

Dip your mop into the suds and wring it out. Mop the floor with long, even strokes. Be sure you get into the corners.

Don't let floors get very wet or stay wet. Wash one part of the floor at a time, then mop with clean water to rinse it. Go over it again to "pick up" excess water.

Keep on mopping this way until the whole floor is clean. Change sudsy water and rinse water when they get dirty. Let the floor dry at least half an hour before you wax it.



Fig. 2

CLEANING VERY DIRTY FLOORS AND REMOVING OLD WAX (Except on wood floors)

When your floor is very dirty or when you want to get rid of all the old wax, mix together: (Fig. 3)

- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup dry detergent
- $\frac{1}{3}$ cup household ammonia
- 1 gallon very warm water.

1. Spread the cleaner on a small area of the floor.
2. Let the cleaner stand on floor for 3 to 5 minutes.
3. Rub the cleaner off with a coarse-textured cloth or use a scrub brush to get into corners and get rid of stubborn spots.
4. Rinse with clear warm water.
5. Then, go on to the next areas of the floor, until all the floor is clean.
6. If a very heavy wax coating doesn't come off in some places the first time you use the special cleaner, go over those spots again.

You can also buy "wax remover" products. If you use one, follow directions on the label.



Fig. 3

FOR WOOD FLOORS

Wood floors need different care.

1. Wood is usually protected with a coat of varnish, lacquer, or wood sealer. If the finish is worn and you get too much water on it, the floor can get rough and discolored.
2. Clean wood floors often with a dust mop, broom, or vacuum cleaner.
3. Use a solvent cleaner occasionally to remove dirt and old wax.
4. Keep floors waxed.

WAXING YOUR FLOORS

Do floors need wax? You may want to wax your floors, but probably not every time you wash them.

- A waxed floor stays clean longer.
- Waxing makes floors look prettier.
- Wax helps protect floors and makes them last longer.

Buy the kind of wax that is made for your floor. Read the label on the container before you buy. Check to see if the kind of floor you have is listed. (Fig. 4)



Fig. 4

Do not use a paste wax on asphalt tile floors. Use only self-polishing liquid wax on asphalt.

WHEN YOU WAX . . .

- Be sure the floor is clean and dry.
- Read the label on your wax. Shake the can only if the directions tell you to.

Liquid Wax:

1. Pour a little bit (a spot about the size of a saucer) on one section of the floor.
2. Spread the wax with a cloth or long-handled waxer. A waxer makes the job easier. Move it back and forth for an even shine.
3. Repeat until all the floor is waxed.
4. If the wax is not self-polishing, you will need to rub the floor with a clean, dry cloth to make it shiny. (Read the label on the can to see if you need to polish the floor.)

Paste Wax:

1. It's easier to put paste wax on with a long-handled waxer. Dampen the pad of the waxer with water. Put wax on the pad using

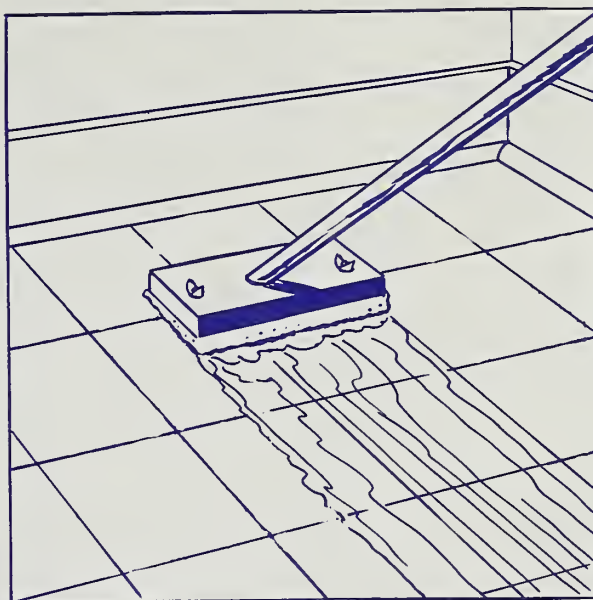


Fig. 5

a table knife, just as you would butter a slice of bread. Spread wax on the floor in a thin, even film.

2. If you don't have a long-handled waxer, you can put paste wax on by hand. Fold a soft, damp cloth into a pad. Wipe it across the wax in the can—don't dig it out in chunks. Spread wax on the floor in a thin film, with long, even strokes. (Fig. 5)
3. Paste wax needs polishing. Wait only a minute or two until the wax is set, then rub the floor with a soft, clean dry cloth. Either do this by hand or put the cloth under your waxer. Rub the floor hard until the wax begins to shine.

After Waxing

Be sure the wax is dry before you walk on it. If one coat of wax doesn't make your floors shiny enough, or if you have old floors such as worn linoleum, put on a second coat of wax.

Wait at least 4 hours before putting on the second coat. If possible, don't walk on the floor between these waxings.

SPECIAL FLOOR CLEANING PROBLEMS

PROBLEM:	CAUSED BY:	WHAT TO DO:
BLACK MARKS	Black rubber heels	Dip a clean cloth or a very fine steel wool (000) in the kind of wax you used to wax the floor. Scrub the black mark to get rid of it. Then rub the spot with a clean cloth to make the wax shine.
SCUFF MARKS	Too much wax. Floor wasn't polished enough (if you used wax that needs polishing).	Try polishing the floor. If this doesn't work, remove wax and apply a thin layer of wax.

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